



Washington Area Development Economics Symposium

May 1, 2026

School of International Service, American University
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016
Founder's Room

9:30 – 9:55 *Registration and Breakfast*

9:55 – 10:00 Welcome Remarks, C. Austin Davis (American University)

Session 1 (Chair: Anh Pham, George Mason University)

10:00 – 10:35 Faculty Presentation, Remi Jedwab (George Washington University), “The Economic Role of Slums: Evidence from the Densest Place on Earth,” joint with Jingwen Zheng (George Washington University).

10:35 – 11:05 Student Lightning Round, 10 minutes each

- **10:35 – 10:45** Kathryn Nicholson (George Washington University), “Urban Informality in the Wake of Floods: Evidence from Mumbai.”
- **10:45 – 10:55** Aishwarya Kekre (University of Virginia), “Barriers to Structural Transformation: The Role of Agricultural Land Fragmentation.”
- **10:55 – 11:05** Olzhas Zhorayev (George Mason University), “The Persistent Effects of Temporary Re-centralization on Infrastructure and Redistribution in Vietnam.”

11:05 – 11:30 *Coffee Break*

Session 2 (Chair: Sandip Sukhtankar, University of Virginia)

11:30 – 12:05 Faculty Presentation, C. Austin Davis (American University), “The Economic Drivers of State Violence against Civilians: Evidence from Myanmar.”

12:05 – 12:40 Student Presentation 1

- **12:05 – 12:30** Student Presentation, Alberto Matamoros (University of Maryland), “The Effects of Evangelical Media in Peru.”
- **12:30 – 12:40** Discussion by Tereza Varejkova (American University) and open Q&A.

12:40 – 1:45 *Lunch*



Session 3 (Chair: Susan Parker, University of Maryland)

1:45 – 2:20 Faculty Presentation, Solomiya Shpak (George Mason University), “Finance, Employment, and Survival: Evidence from Bank Liquidations in Ukraine.”

2:20 – 2:55 Student Presentation 2

- **2:20 – 2:45** Student Presentation, Lanfeng Li (Georgetown University), “Displace Him, Deploy Her? Couple’s Asymmetric Labor Responses to Pension Eligibility.”
- **2:45 – 2:55** Discussion by Tanner Regan (George Washington University) and open Q&A.

2:55 – 3:15 *Coffee Break*

Session 4 (Chair: Tereza Varejkova, American University)

3:15 – 3:50 Faculty Presentation, Gaurav Chiplunkar (University of Virginia), “General Purpose Technology and Firm Production: Evidence from Broadband Internet.”

3:50 – 4:25 Faculty Presentation, Daniel Agness (University of Maryland), “Don’t Know, Don’t Care? Experimental Evidence on Barriers to Responsive Public Services in Ethiopia.”

4:25 – 5:00 Faculty Presentation, Jacobus Ciliers (Georgetown University), “Ten Years Later: Long-Run Impacts of a Foundational Literacy Intervention in South Africa.”

5:00 Closing Remarks

Guidelines:

Faculty presentations are 35 minutes allowing for interruptions.

Student (full) presentations are 25 minutes uninterrupted followed by ~10 minutes discussion and open Q&A.

Lightning talks are 10 minutes uninterrupted. Time constraints do not allow for Q&A, but we strongly encourage conference attendees to provide feedback to lightning presenters during coffee breaks or lunch.

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